WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An image processing apparatus comprising:

image obtaining means for obtaining a second image of a predetermined aspect size ratio from a first image on the basis of an aspect size ratio of said first image; and

reducing means for reducing the second image obtained by said image obtaining means.

2. An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein when the aspect size ratio of said first image is out of a predetermined range, said image obtaining means obtains said second image.

3. An apparatus according to claim 2, wherein said image obtaining means generates an image of the aspect size ratio of said predetermined value as said second image.

4. An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said reducing means reduces the second image obtained by said image obtaining means at a same reduction ratio in both vertical and lateral directions of said second image.

5. An apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising adding means for adding specific information

to an arbitrary end section of the reduced image obtained by said reducing means.

6. An apparatus according to claim 5, wherein said reducing means obtains said reduced image such that the reduced image to which said specific information was added by said adding means goes in an image frame of a predetermined size.

7. An apparatus according to claim 5, wherein said adding means adds the specific information to both end sections in the longitudinal direction between the vertical and lateral directions of said reduced image.

8. An apparatus according to claim 5, wherein said adding means uses a reduced image to which said specific information was added as an image for display.

9. An image processing apparatus comprising:

image obtaining means for obtaining at least two images of a second image in an arbitrary area portion of a first image and a third image in the other area portion on the basis of an aspect size ratio of said first image; and

reducing means for reducing said second and third images obtained by said image obtaining means at different reduction ratios, respectively.

10. An apparatus according to claim 9, wherein in the case where the aspect size ratio of said first image is out of a predetermined range, said image obtaining means obtains said second and third images.

11. An apparatus according to claim 9, wherein said reducing means reduces said second and third images at the different reduction ratios so that said second and third images after completion of the reduction go in an image frame of a predetermined size, respectively.

12. An apparatus according to claim 9, wherein said reducing means reduces said second image at a same reduction ratio in both vertical and lateral directions of said second image, reduces said third image at a reduction ratio larger than that of said second image in the direction corresponding to the longitudinal direction of said first image between the vertical and lateral directions of said third image, and reduces said third image at a same reduction ratio as that of said second image in the other direction.

13. An apparatus according to claim 9, wherein said image obtaining means obtains said second image from said arbitrary area portion of said first image.

14. An apparatus according to claim 9, wherein said

arbitrary area portion includes a mid section of said first image.

15. An apparatus according to claim 9, wherein said image obtaining means picks out said second image having a size of a ($a < A$) × B from said first image, where,

A: size in the longitudinal direction between the vertical and lateral directions of said first image,

B: size in the minor direction of said first image.

16. An apparatus according to claim 9, further comprising display means for displaying reduced images obtained by said reducing means.

17. An apparatus according to claim 16, wherein said display means displays a list of a plurality of reduced images obtained by said reducing means.

18. An image processing system to which a plurality of equipment are connected so that they can communicate, wherein at least one of said plurality of equipment has a function of an image processing apparatus, and said image processing apparatus comprises:

image obtaining means for obtaining a second image

of a predetermined aspect size ratio from a first image on the basis of an aspect size ratio of said first image; and

reducing means for reducing the second image obtained by said image obtaining means.

19. An image processing method which can manage a plurality of images and display a list by using reduced images of said images, comprising:

a generating step of, when a target image is an elongated image whose aspect ratio is larger than a first predetermined value, generating a reduced image of an aspect ratio of a second predetermined value from an arbitrary area portion of said target image; and

a display step of displaying the reduced image of the aspect ratio of said second predetermined value generated in said generating step.

20. A method according to claim 19, wherein said second predetermined value includes said first predetermined value.

21. A method according to claim 19, wherein in said generating step, a same reduction ratio is set in both vertical and lateral directions of said reduced image.

22. A method according to claim 19, wherein

specific marks are added to one or a plurality of upper, lower, right, and left positions of said reduced image of the aspect ratio of said second predetermined value.

23. A method according to claim 22, wherein said specific marks are added to both ends in the longitudinal direction of said reduced image of the aspect ratio of said second predetermined value.

24. A method according to claim 22, wherein in said generating step, the reduced image to which said specific marks were added is used as a reduced image for display.

25. An image processing method which can manage a plurality of images and display a list by using reduced images of said images, comprising:

a generating step of, when a target image is an elongated image whose aspect ratio is larger than a predetermined value, generating a reduced image of said target image by making reduction ratios in the vertical and lateral directions different in an arbitrary area portion and the other area portion of said target image; and

a display step of displaying the reduced image generated in said generating step.

26. A method according to claim 25, wherein said generating step includes the steps of:

reducing said arbitrary area portion at a same reduction ratio in both vertical and lateral directions;

when said target image is a laterally-wide image, setting the reduction ratio in the lateral direction in said other area portion to be larger than that in the vertical direction, making the reduction ratio in the vertical direction identical to that of said arbitrary area portion, and reducing said image; and

when said target image is a vertically-long image, making the reduction ratio in the lateral direction in said other area portion identical to that in said arbitrary area portion, setting the reduction ratio in the vertical direction to be larger than that in the lateral direction, and reducing said image.

27. A method according to claim 19, wherein said arbitrary area portion includes a mid section of said target image.

28. A method according to claim 19, wherein said arbitrary area portion includes an area having a size of $a\ (a < A) \times B$,

where,

A: size in the longitudinal direction between the

vertical and lateral directions of said target image,

B: size in the minor direction of said target image.

29. A storage medium which stores a computer-readable program, wherein said program realizes an image processing method comprising:

a generating step of, when a target image is an elongated image whose aspect ratio is larger than a first predetermined value, generating a reduced image of an aspect ratio of a second predetermined value from an arbitrary area portion of said target image; and

a display step of displaying the reduced image of the aspect ratio of said second predetermined value generated in said generating step.

30. A storage medium which stores a computer-readable program, wherein said program realizes an image processing method comprising:

a generating step of, when a target image is an elongated image whose aspect ratio is larger than a predetermined value, generating a reduced image of said target image by making reduction ratios in the vertical and lateral directions different in an arbitrary area portion and the other area portion of said target image; and

a display step of displaying the reduced image generated in said generating step.